

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 178

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 700



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by: (ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 17b-737 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- The Commissioner of Education shall establish a program, within
- 4 available appropriations, to provide grants to municipalities, boards of
- 5 education and child care providers to encourage the use of school
- 6 facilities for the provision of child care services before and after school.
- 7 In order to qualify for a grant, a municipality, board of education or
- 8 child care provider shall guarantee the availability of a school site
- 9 which meets the standards set on or before June 30, 2014, by the
- 10 Department of Public Health and on and after July 1, 2014, by the
- 11 Office of Early Childhood in regulations adopted under sections 19a-
- 12 77, 19a-79, 19a-80 and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, <u>as amended by this</u>
- 13 act, and shall agree to provide liability insurance coverage for the
- 14 program. Grant funds shall be used by the municipality, board of

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15 education or child care provider for the maintenance and utility costs 16 directly attributable to the use of the school facility for the [day care 17 program] provision of child care services, for related transportation costs and for the portion of the municipality, board of education or 18 19 child care provider liability insurance cost and other operational costs 20 directly attributable to the [day care program] provision of such child care services. The municipality or board of education may contract 21 22 with a child [day] care provider for the program. The Commissioner of 23 Education may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of 24 chapter 54, for purposes of this section. The commissioner may utilize 25 available child care subsidies to implement the provisions of this 26 section and encourage association and cooperation with the Head Start 27 program established pursuant to section 10-16n.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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- (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide, on a competitive basis, supplemental quality enhancement grants to [providers of child care services or providers of] child care centers or school readiness programs pursuant to section 10-16p and section 10-16u. Child [day] care [providers] centers and school readiness programs may apply for a supplemental quality enhancement grant at such time and on such form as the commissioner prescribes. Effective July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall make funds payable to providers under such grants on a prospective basis.
- Sec. 3. Section 17b-749d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- Each licensed child [day] care [provider] <u>center</u> receiving funding directly from the Office of Early Childhood shall adopt a sliding fee scale based on family income. The Commissioner of Early Childhood

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- 46 shall develop a minimum sliding fee scale which may be adjusted
- 47 upward by each such licensed [day] child care [program] center. All
- 48 income derived from such fees shall be used to support the <u>licensed</u>
- 49 child care [program] center.
- Sec. 4. Subdivision (12) of section 17a-93 of the 2016 supplement to
- 51 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 52 thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 53 (12) "Person responsible for the health, welfare or care of a child or
- youth" means a child's or a youth's parent, guardian or foster parent;
- 55 an employee of a public or private residential home, agency or
- 56 institution or other person legally responsible in a residential setting;
- or any staff person providing out-of-home care, including [center-
- 58 based child day care, family day care or group day care] child care
- 59 <u>services</u>, as defined in section 19a-77, provided at a child care center,
- 60 group child care home or family child care home;
- 61 Sec. 5. Section 12-81n of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may
- 64 provide an exemption from property tax of property subject to taxation
- under chapter 208 of a business which offers child care services, as
- 66 <u>defined in section 19a-77</u>, to residents of the municipality, provided
- such business is not regularly engaged in the construction or operation
- of child [day] care [facilities] centers, group child care homes or family
- 69 <u>child care homes</u>. Such exemption shall be in the amount of (1) up to
- one hundred per cent of the assessed value of the property of the
- 71 business used in providing [day] child care services; and (2) up to ten
- 72 per cent of the balance of the assessed value of the property of the
- 73 business.
- Sec. 6. Section 8-210 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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(a) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Social Services or the Commissioner of Early Childhood, as appropriate, may enter into a contract with a municipality or a qualified private, nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance for the planning, construction, renovation, site preparation and purchase of improved or unimproved property as part of a capital development project for neighborhood facilities. Such facilities may include, but are not limited to, child [day] care [facilities] centers, elderly centers, multipurpose human resource centers, emergency shelters for the homeless and shelters for victims of domestic violence. The financial assistance shall be in the form of state grants-in-aid equal to (1) all or any portion of the cost of such capital development project if the grantee is a qualified private nonprofit corporation, or (2) up to two-thirds of the cost of such capital development project if the grantee is a municipality, as determined by the Commissioner of Social Services or the Commissioner of Early Childhood, as appropriate.

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(b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance in developing and operating child care centers for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall be available for the operating costs of any such child care center unless it has been licensed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80. Such financial assistance shall be available for a program of a municipality, of a human resource development agency or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide for personnel, equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and renovation and remodeling of physical facilities of such child care centers. Such contract shall provide for state financial assistance, within available appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of the cost of such program as determined by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, if not federally assisted, or (2) equal to one-half of the

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109 amount by which the net cost of such program as approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood exceeds the federal grant-in-aid 110 111 thereof. The Commissioner of Early Childhood may authorize child 112 care centers [provided] receiving financial assistance [pursuant to] 113 <u>under</u> this subsection to apply a program surplus to the next program 114 year. The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall consult with 115 directors of child care centers in establishing fees for the operation of 116 such centers.

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- Childhood, in The Office of Early consultation with child representatives from care centers, within available appropriations, shall develop guidelines for programs provided at state-contracted child care [center programs] centers. The guidelines shall include standards for program quality and design and identify short and long-term outcomes for families participating in such programs. The Office of Early Childhood, within available appropriations, shall provide a copy of such guidelines to each statecontracted child care center. Each state-contracted child care center shall use the guidelines to develop a program improvement plan for the next twelve-month period and shall submit the plan to the Office of Early Childhood. The plan shall include goals to be used for measuring such improvement. The Office of Early Childhood shall use the plan to monitor the progress of [the] such center.
- (d) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation for state financial assistance for a project of renovation of any child [day] care [facility] center receiving assistance [pursuant to the provisions of] under this section, to make such [facility] center accessible to the physically disabled, in the form of a state grant-in-aid equal to (1) the total net cost of the project as approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, or (2) the total amount by which the net cost of the project as approved by the Commissioner of Early Childhood exceeds the federal grant-in-aid thereof.

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(e) Any municipality, human resource development agency or nonprofit corporation [which] that enters into a contract pursuant to this section for state financial assistance for a [day care facility] child care center shall have sole responsibility for the development of the budget of the [day care program] program provided at such child care center, including, but not limited to, personnel costs, purchases of equipment, supplies, activities and program materials, within the resources provided by the state under said contract. Upon local determination of a change in the type of [day care service] child care services required in the area, a municipality, human resource development agency or nonprofit corporation may, within the limits of its annual budget and subject to the provisions of this subsection and sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and 19a-82 to 19a-87a, inclusive, as amended by this act, change its [day care service] child care service. An application to change the type of child care service provided shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Not later than forty-five days after the Commissioner of Early Childhood receives the application, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall advise the municipality, human resource development agency or nonprofit corporation of the Commissioner of Early Childhood's approval, denial or approval with modifications of the application. If the Commissioner of Early Childhood fails to act on the application not later than forty-five days after the application's submittal, the application shall be deemed approved.

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(f) The Commissioner of Early Childhood may, in his <u>or her</u> discretion, with the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management authorize the expenditure of such funds for the purposes of this section as shall enable the Commissioner of Early Childhood to apply for, qualify for and provide the state's share of [a] federally assisted [day care program] child care services.

Sec. 7. Subdivision (10) of subsection (b) of section 10-500 of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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(10) Continually monitoring and evaluating all early care and education and child development programs and services, focusing on program outcomes in satisfying the health, safety, developmental and educational needs of all children, while retaining distinct separation between quality improvement services and [child day care] licensing services for child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes;

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Sec. 8. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(D) In the case of an electric transmission line, (i) what part, if any, of the facility shall be located overhead, (ii) that the facility conforms to a long-range plan for expansion of the electric power grid of the electric systems serving the state and interconnected utility systems and will serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability, and (iii) that the overhead portions, if any, of the facility are cost effective and the most appropriate alternative based on a life-cycle cost analysis of the facility and underground alternatives to such facility, are consistent with the purposes of this chapter, with such regulations or standards as the council may adopt pursuant to section 16-50t, including, but not limited to, the council's best management practices for electric and magnetic fields for electric transmission lines and with the Federal Power Commission "Guidelines for the Protection of Natural Historic Scenic and Recreational Values in the Design and Location of Rights-of-Way and Transmission Facilities" or any successor guidelines and any other applicable federal guidelines and are to be contained within an area that provides a buffer zone that protects the public health and safety, as determined by the council. In establishing such buffer zone, the council shall consider, among other things, residential areas, private or public schools, licensed child [day] care [facilities] centers, licensed youth camps or public playgrounds adjacent to the proposed route of the overhead portions and the level of the voltage of the overhead portions and any existing overhead

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transmission lines on the proposed route. At a minimum, the existing right-of-way shall serve as the buffer zone;

- Sec. 9. Subsection (i) of section 16-50p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 213 (i) For a facility described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of 214 section 16-50i, with a capacity of not less than three hundred forty-five 215 kilovolts, the presumption shall be that a proposal to place the 216 overhead portions, if any, of such facility adjacent to residential areas, 217 private or public schools, licensed child [day] care [facilities] centers, 218 licensed youth camps or public playgrounds is inconsistent with the 219 purposes of this chapter. An applicant may rebut this presumption by 220 demonstrating to the council that burying the facility will be 221 technologically infeasible. In determining such infeasibility, the council 222 shall consider the effect of burying the facility on the reliability of the 223 electric transmission system of the state and whether the cost of any 224 contemplated technology or design configuration may result in an 225 unreasonable economic burden on the ratepayers of the state.
- Sec. 10. Section 17b-733 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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The Office of Early Childhood shall be the lead agency for child care services, as defined in section 19a-77, in Connecticut. The office shall: (1) Identify, annually, existing child care services and maintain an inventory of all available services; (2) provide technical assistance to corporations and private agencies in the development and expansion of child care services for families at all income levels, including families of their employees and clients; (3) study and identify funding sources available for child [day] care services including federal funds and tax benefits; (4) study the cost and availability of liability insurance for [child day care] providers of child care services; (5) encourage providers of child care services to obtain accreditation; (6)

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evaluate the effectiveness of any initiatives developed pursuant to subdivision (13) of this section in improving staff retention rates and the quality of education and care provided to children; and (15) report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the status of child [day] care services in Connecticut. Such report shall include (A) an itemization of the allocation of state and federal funds for programs providing child care [programs] services; (B) the number of children served under each program so funded; (C) the number and type of such programs, providers and support personnel; (D) state activities to encourage partnership between the public and private sectors; (E) average payments issued by the state for both part-time and full-time child care; (F) range of family income and percentages served within each range by such programs; and (G) age range of children served.

Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 19a-87a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall have the discretion to refuse to license under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, and 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, as amended by this act, a person to conduct, operate or maintain a [day] child care center or a group child care home, as defined in section 19a-77, or to suspend or revoke the license or take any other action set forth in regulation that may be adopted pursuant to section 19a-79 if, the person who owns, conducts, maintains or operates such center or home or a person employed therein in a position connected with the provision of care to a child receiving child care services, has been convicted in this state or any other state of a felony as defined in section 53a-25 involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, of cruelty to persons under section 53-20, injury or risk of injury to or impairing morals of children under section 53-21, abandonment of children under the age of six years under section 53-23, or any felony where the victim of the felony is a child under

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- eighteen years of age, or of a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-
- 307 70b, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or has a criminal record in this
- 308 state or any other state that the commissioner reasonably believes
- renders the person unsuitable to own, conduct, operate or maintain or
- 310 be employed by a child care center or group child care home.
- However, no refusal of a license shall be rendered except in accordance
- with the provisions of sections 46a-79 to 46a-81, inclusive.
- Sec. 12. Section 19a-82 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 315 The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall utilize consultative
- 316 services and assistance from the Departments of Education, Mental
- 317 Health and Addiction Services and Social Services and from municipal
- building, fire and health departments. The commissioner shall make
- 319 periodic inspections of licensed [day] child care centers, group child
- 320 care homes and family child care homes and shall provide technical
- 321 assistance to licensees and applicants for licenses to assist them to
- 322 attain and maintain the standards established in regulations adopted
- 323 under this section and sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, [19a-82] 19a-
- 324 <u>84</u> to 19a-87, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, and 19a-87b.
- Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 19a-87 of the general statutes is
- 326 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
- 327 passage):
- 328 (a) Any person or officer of an association, organization or
- 329 corporation who establishes, conducts, maintains or operates a [day]
- 330 child care center or group child care home without a current and valid
- 331 license shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred
- dollars a day for each day that such center or home is operated
- 333 without a license.
- Sec. 14. Subdivision (6) of subsection (n) of section 4b-23 of the
- 335 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 336 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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(6) The encouragement of the establishment of child [day] care [facilities] centers and child development centers including provisions for (A) full-day and year-round programs for children of working parents, (B) opportunities for parents to choose among accredited public or private programs, (C) open enrollment for children in child care and school readiness programs, and (D) incentives for the colocation and service integration of child care programs and school readiness programs pursuant to section 4b-31.

- Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 17a-248i of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (a) Not later than October 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall require, as part of the birth-to-three program [,] established under section 17a-248b, that the parent or guardian of a child who is (1) receiving services under the birth-to-three program, and (2) exhibiting delayed speech, language or hearing development [,] be notified of the availability of hearing testing for such child. Such notification may include, but not be limited to, information regarding (A) the benefits of hearing testing for children, (B) the resources available to the parent or guardian for hearing testing and treatment, and (C) any financial assistance that may be available for such testing.
- Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101 of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: (1) Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, (2) any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not so licensed, (3) any registered nurse, (4) any licensed practical nurse, (5) any medical examiner, (6) any dentist, (7) any dental hygienist, (8) any psychologist, (9) any school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, (10) any social worker, (11) any person who holds or is

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Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 10-520 of the 2016 supplement to

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the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

- (b) On and after July 1, 2015, the Office of Early Childhood shall, during a review and assessment pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 10-16p, collect data relating to bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education or [childhood] child development that have not been approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and the Office of Early Childhood from institutions of higher education that are regionally accredited. The office shall, at least quarterly, use such data to conduct a trend analysis of such bachelor's degree programs for the purpose of determining (1) whether such bachelor's degree programs align with the teacher preparation standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and (2) which courses and concentrations offered as part of such bachelor's degree programs align with such teacher preparation standards.
- Sec. 18. Section 10-507 of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start competitive capital grant account" which shall be a capital projects fund. The account shall contain the amounts authorized by the State Bond Commission in accordance with section 10-508 and any other moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Office of Early Childhood for the purposes of the <u>Connecticut</u> Smart Start competitive grant program established pursuant to section 10-506.
 - (b) There is established an account to be known as the "smart start competitive operating grant account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, in

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accordance with the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (c) of

- section 4-28e. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Office of
- 434 Early Childhood for the purposes of the Connecticut Smart Start
- competitive grant program established pursuant to section 10-506.
- Sec. 19. Subsection (b) of section 10-16r of the 2016 supplement to
- 437 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 438 thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
- 440 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
- 441 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
- applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, 10-16u, 17b-749a
- and 17b-749c, as amended by this act; (2) foster partnerships among
- providers of school readiness programs; (3) cooperate with the [office
- 445 in any program evaluation] Office of Early Childhood in any
- 446 evaluation of a school readiness program; (4) identify existing and
- prospective resources and services available to children and families;
- 448 (5) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to children and
- 449 families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before and after-
- 450 school child care for children attending kindergarten programs; (6)
- 451 exchange information with other councils, the community and
- organizations serving the needs of children and families; (7) make recommendations to school officials concerning transition from school
- 454 readiness programs to kindergarten; and (8) encourage public
- 455 participation.
- Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-74k of the 2016 supplement to
- 457 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 458 thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (a) The Department of Education shall develop guidelines for the
- 460 provision of alternative education, as defined in section 10-74j. Such
- 461 guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the
- 462 purpose and expectations of alternative education, criteria for who is

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eligible to receive alternative education [,] <u>and</u> criteria for how and when a student may enter or exit alternative education.

- Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 10-4v of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 468 (a) Not later than September 15, 2015, the Commissioner of 469 Education shall develop a process to invite innovation waiver requests 470 from local and regional boards of education for waivers of the 471 provisions of this title over which the State Board of Education has 472 jurisdiction, or any regulation adopted by the state board, except a 473 local or regional board of education shall not request or be granted a 474 waiver of the provisions of part I of chapter 166, chapters 169 and 172, 475 sections 10-14n to 10-14w, inclusive, 10-15, 10-16, 10-16b, 10-76d, 10-476 186, 10-221a, 10-223e, 10-226a to 10-226h, inclusive, and 10-233c [and 477 10-281] or any requirement of federal law. Any such innovation waiver 478 request shall be made in a manner and form prescribed by the 479 commissioner and shall demonstrate (1) how the granting of an 480 innovation waiver would stimulate innovation or improve 481 administration of school district operations or student academic 482 performance, (2) that the local or regional board of education can 483 address the intent of the statute or regulation for which an innovation 484 waiver is being sought in a more effective, efficient or economical 485 manner, and (3) how the granting of an innovation waiver would 486 ensure the protection of sound educational practices, the health and 487 safety of students and school personnel, and equal opportunities for 488 learning.
- Sec. 22. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-264i of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 492 (3) For districts assisting the state in meeting the goals of the 2008 493 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al.,

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as extended, or the goals of the 2013 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, as determined by the commissioner, [(i)] (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the amount of such grant shall not exceed an amount equal to the number of such children transported multiplied by one thousand four hundred dollars, and [(ii)] (B) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, to June 30, 2017, inclusive, the amount of such grant shall not exceed an amount equal to the number of such children transported multiplied by two thousand dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following		
sections:		
Section 1	from passage	17b-737
Sec. 2	from passage	17b-749c(a)
Sec. 3	from passage	17b-749d
Sec. 4	from passage	17a-93(12)
Sec. 5	from passage	12-81n
Sec. 6	from passage	8-210
Sec. 7	from passage	10-500(b)(10)
Sec. 8	from passage	16-50p(a)(3)(D)
Sec. 9	from passage	16-50p(i)
Sec. 10	from passage	17b-733
Sec. 11	from passage	19a-87a(a)
Sec. 12	from passage	19a-82
Sec. 13	from passage	19a-87(a)
Sec. 14	from passage	4b-23(n)(6)
Sec. 15	from passage	17a-248i(a)
Sec. 16	from passage	17a-101(b)
Sec. 17	from passage	10-520(b)
Sec. 18	from passage	10-507
Sec. 19	from passage	10-16r(b)
Sec. 20	from passage	10-74k(a)
Sec. 21	from passage	10-4v(a)
Sec. 22	from passage	10-264i(a)(3)

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Statement of Purpose:

To make technical revisions to the education and early childhood statutes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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